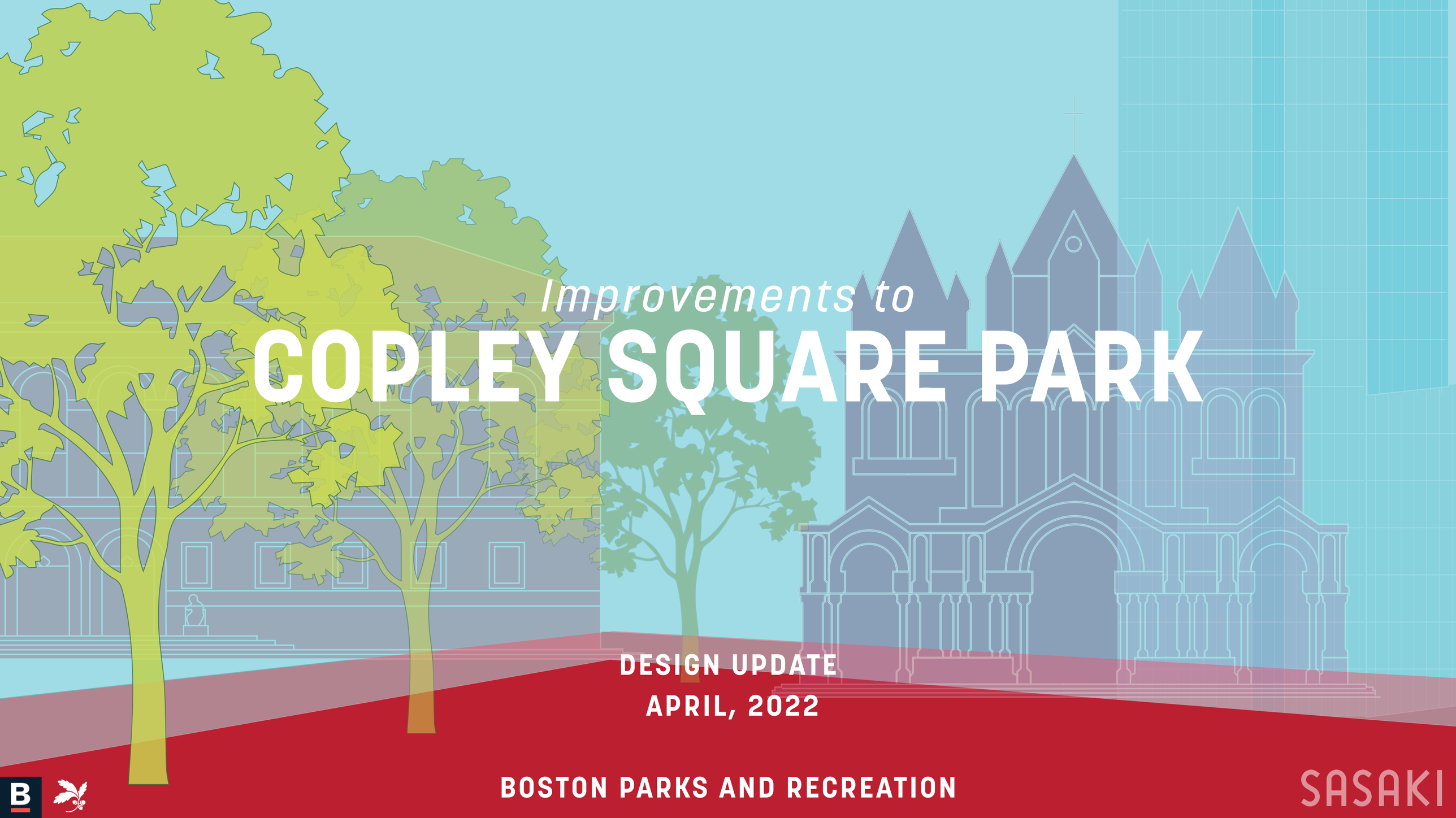


Improvements to

COPLEY SQUARE PARK

DESIGN UPDATE
APRIL, 2022

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION

SASAKI

OUTLINE

Project Context + Overview

Principles and Details

- An Iconic Landmark Fountain + Park Materials
- An Inclusive Gathering Place Seating, Circulation + Spaces
- A Vibrant Destination Events Large + Small
- A Durable + Sustainable Landscape Tree Stewardship + Plantings

Project Schedule

We are here

Fall 2020 | Winter 2020 | Spring 2021 | Summer 2021 | Fall + Winter 2021 | Spring 2022 | Summer 2022 | Groundbreaking Spring 2023 | Opening 2024

SITE ANALYSIS

- Understand the Square's past and present
- Understand community perspective and vision for the future

PROGRAM + SCHEMATIC DESIGN

Concept Options

Refined Conceptual Plan

DEFINITIVE DESIGN

Design Development

REFINED PLAN (SOME DETAIL)

Construction Documentation

ENOUGH DETAIL TO BUILD THE PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION

Public + Stakeholder Meetings

GOAL:

LISTEN

TEST CONCEPTUAL IDEAS

CONFIRM REFINED CONCEPT

REFINE DESIGN

ONGOING COORDINATION WITH BPL, BPDA

2,500+

touchpoints with the community, and counting

1,890

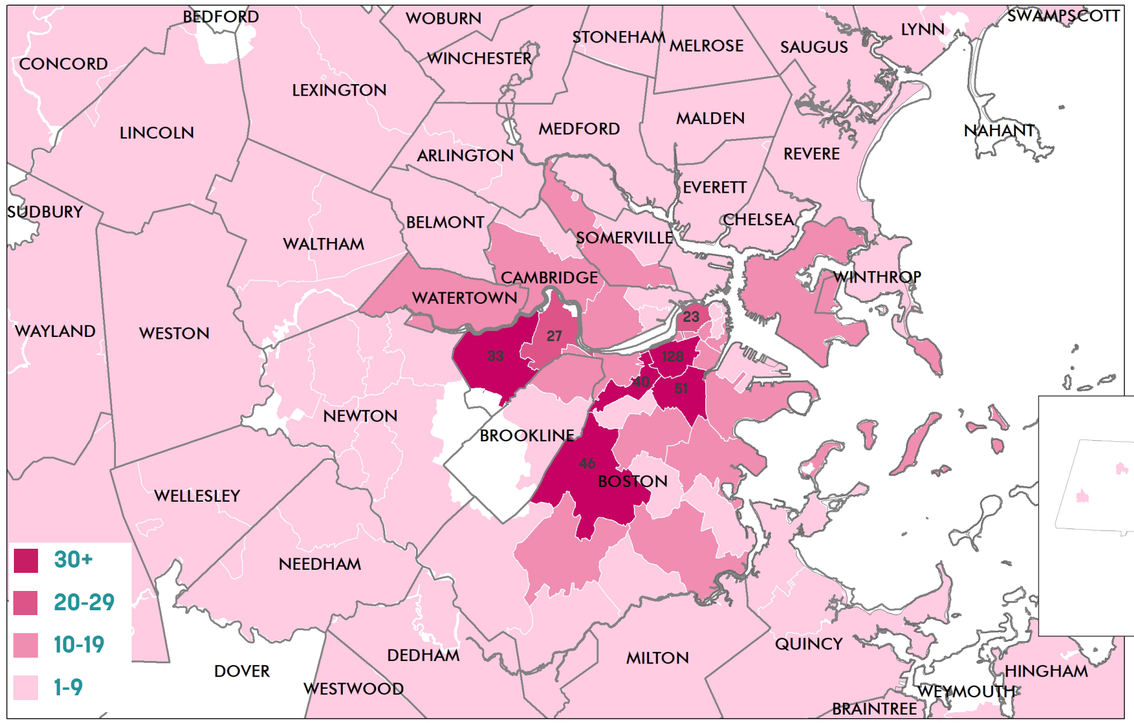
Online Survey Responses over Phases 1, 2 & 3

40+

Meetings with Parks, Stakeholders and Steering Committee

268

Attendees at Community Meetings 1, 2 & 3

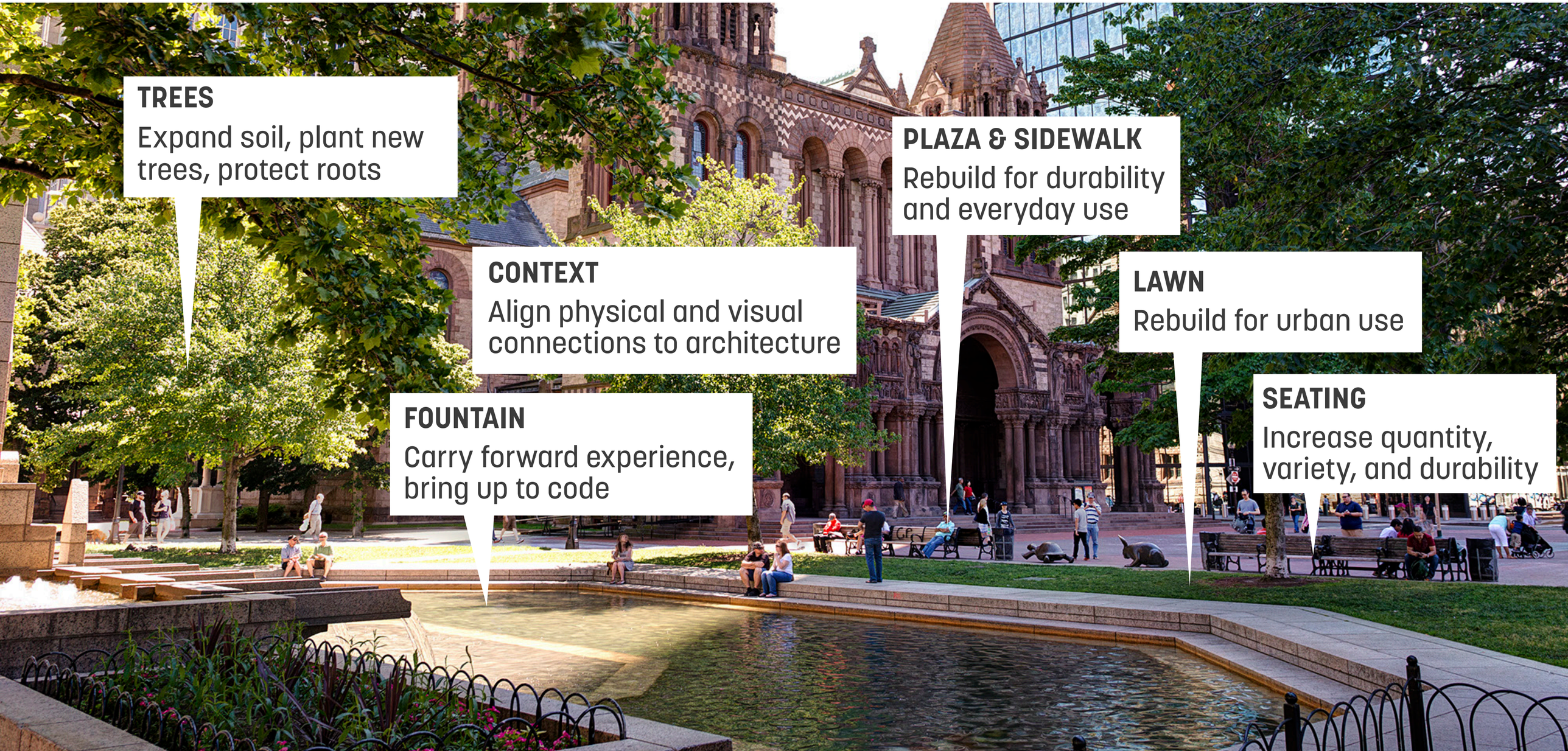


Voices from all over the city and region**

*** Data from zipcodes gathered in Phase 1 survey, over 1,300 responses*

Building on the Best of Copley

Update a much-loved urban square to 21st Century standards

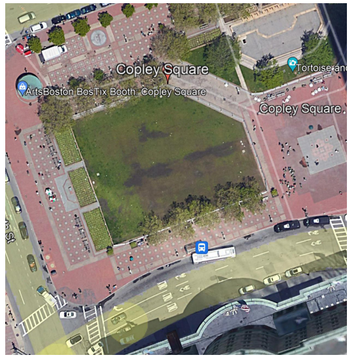


Why renovate today?

Challenges for park users and maintenance...

Lawn requires a high level of care







Pavements are uneven









Fountain needs repair/ unintended uses





Trees are stressed





The challenges run deeper than Copley's surface...

WHAT WE SEE

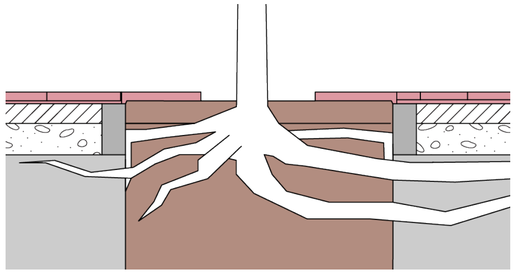
Trees are stressed

Pavement uneven and lawn in disrepair

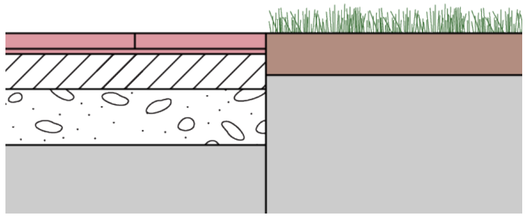
Fountain needs repairs / updates

Daily/Weekly Programming

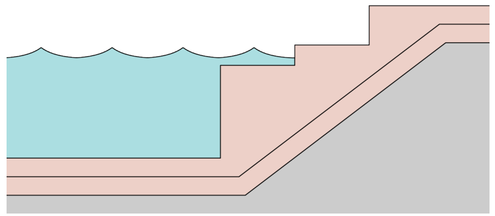
UNDERLYING CHALLENGE



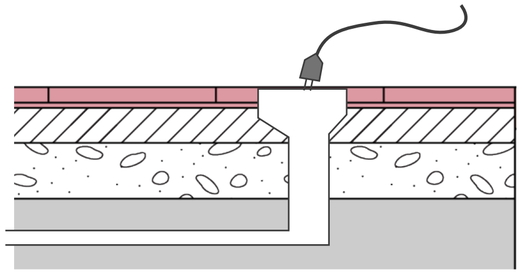
Compacted soils and limited soil volume prevent trees from thriving



Not designed for heavy vehicular use or modern ADA standards and needs additional structural support



Mechanical equipment needs to be replaced and brought to modern standards

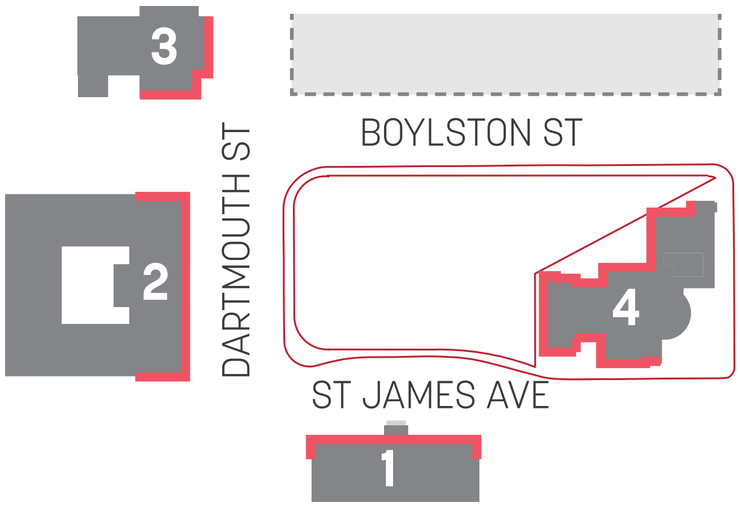


Need to update utilities, infrastructure and vehicular service for farmer's market, maintenance and events

An Original Vision for an "Art Square" at the Nexus of Cultural Institutions

An expanding Victorian Boston imagined a cultural hub to anchor Back Bay.

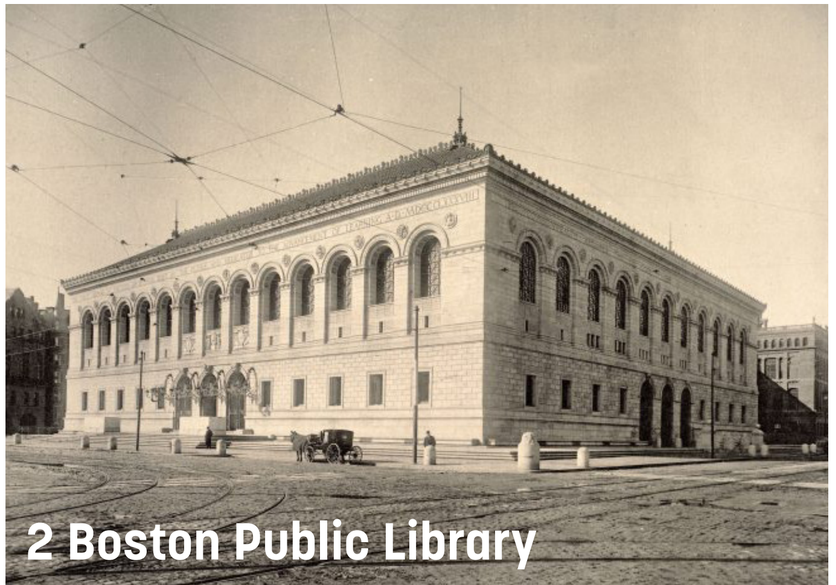
Four institutions framed and defined the Square.




1 Original Home of the Museum of Fine Arts




4 Trinity Church


2 Boston Public Library

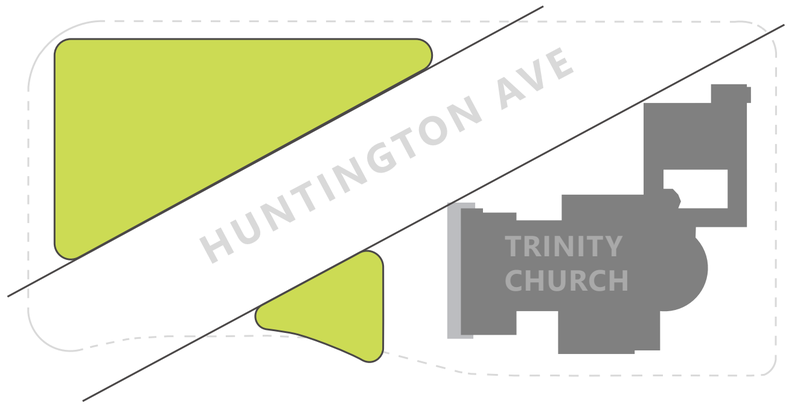

3 Old South Church

Copley Square has evolved over time

1860 -1960s

Roadway and Lawn with Street Cars and Parking

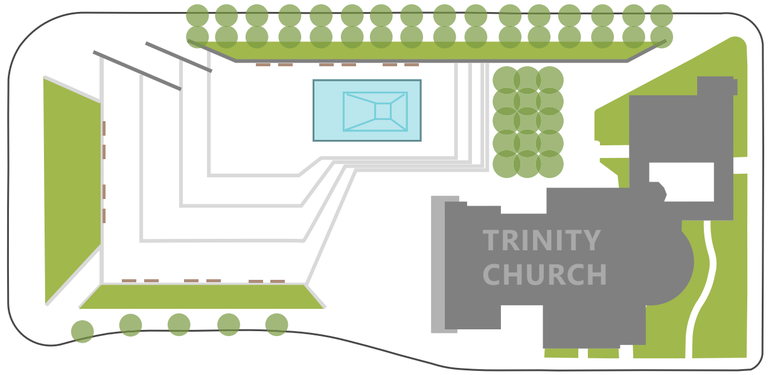




1960s - 1980s

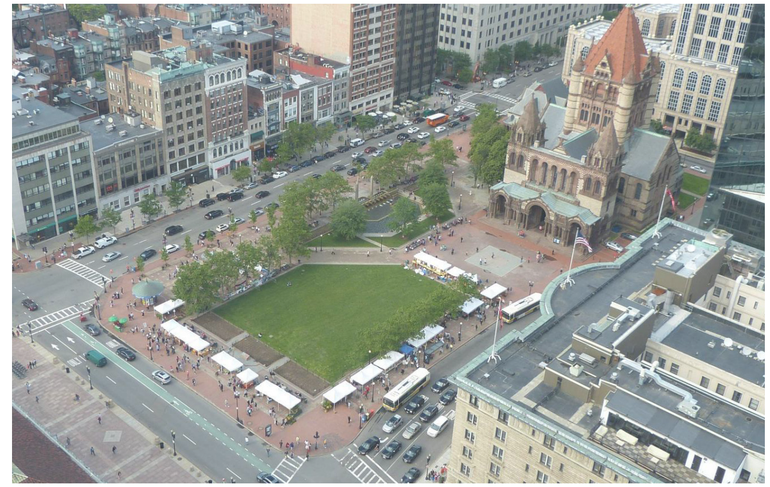
Mid-Century Style Sunken Piazza with Fountain

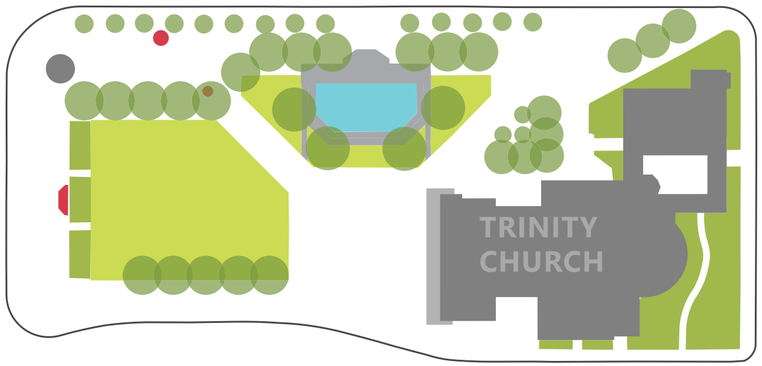




1980s - PRESENT

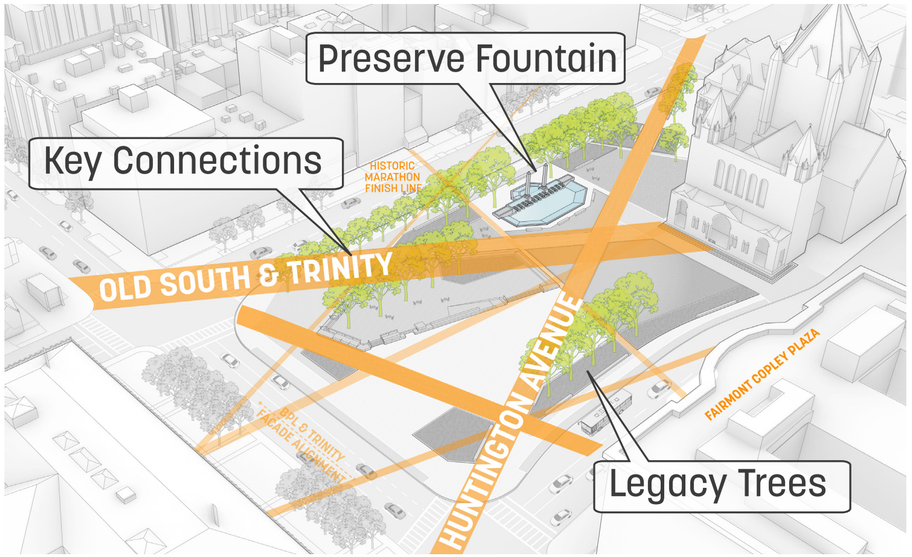
Level Plaza with Lawn and Fountain with a Classic Feel



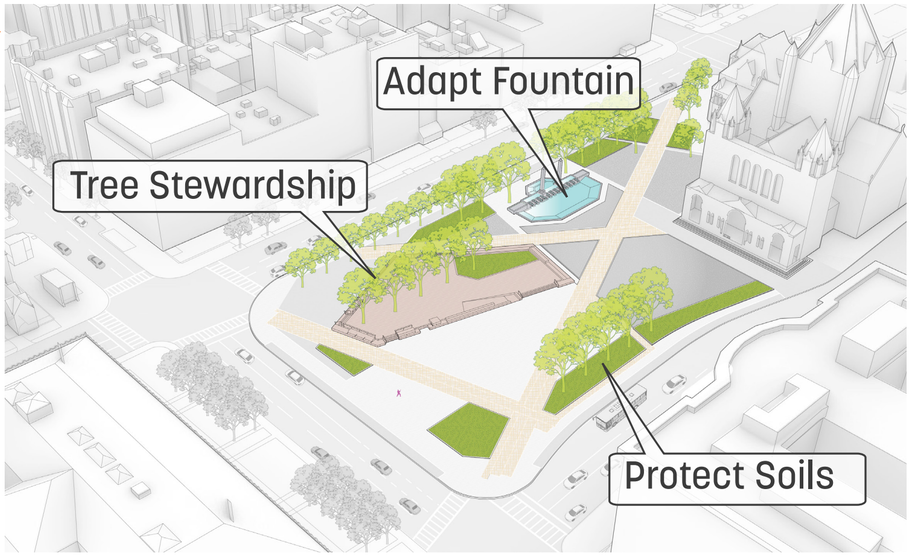


Historic structures and principles as the foundation for a renewed vision

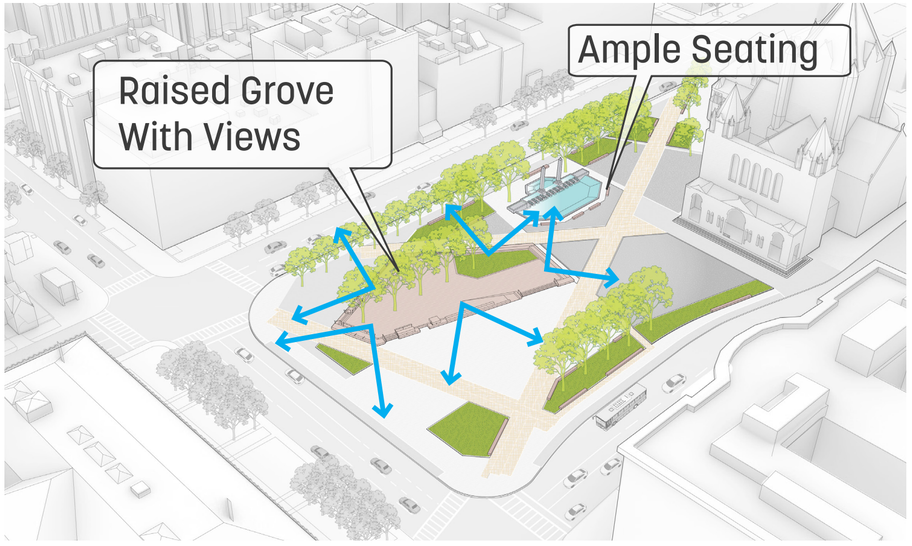
1
PRESERVE & CELEBRATE



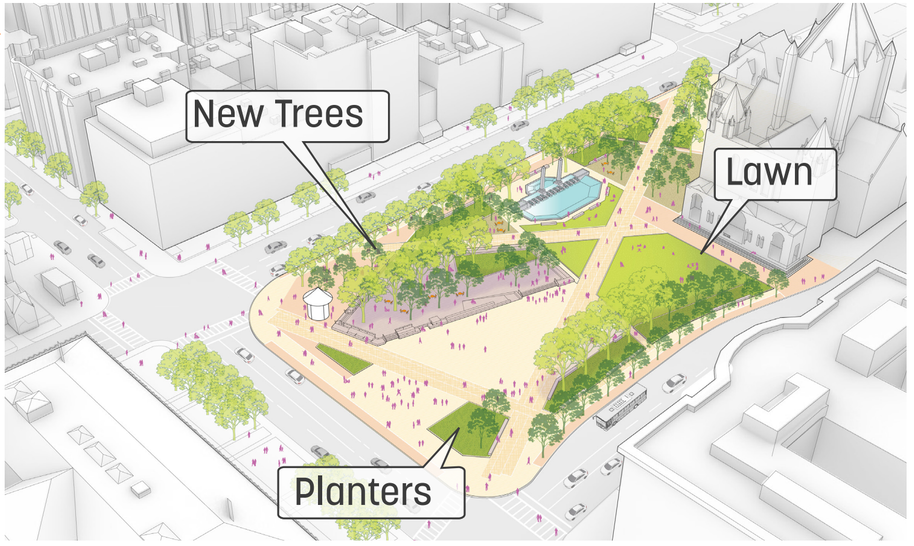
2
RESTORE AND IMPROVE



3
CREATE GREAT SPACES & VIEWS



4
ADD AMPLE GREEN SPACE AND SHADE



A Renewed Copley Square Park

Celebrating, Stewarding and Reinvigorating a Beloved Community Gathering Space



A Plan that Grounds the Community's Goals



CORNERSTONES OF A SUCCESSFUL COPLEY SQUARE

Project Guiding Principles

CHARACTER

An Iconic Landmark at the Heart of Back Bay

PEOPLE

An Inclusive Bostonian Gathering Place

PROGRAM

A Vibrant Destination within the Hub

ENVIRONMENT

A Durable and Sustainable New England Landscape

NOTE: More detail on the project guiding principles, including detailed goals, can be found on the project website.

Project Guiding Principles

Developed through community process

CHARACTER

An Iconic Landmark at the Heart of Back Bay

- Celebrate the surrounding historic architecture
- Balance modern amenities and styles with the historic charm of Back Bay
- Maintain the existing balance of paved to green space

PEOPLE

An Inclusive Bostonian Gathering Place

- Balance the needs of diverse constituent groups
- Provide universal access to all spaces
- Employ landscape details, signage and other amenities to ensure that all cultures feel welcome

PROGRAM

A Vibrant Destination within the Hub

- Improve accommodations for regular events like the First Night, the Marathon and the Farmers Market
- Provide engaging spaces for daily activation
- Be flexible for future event and activation types

ENVIRONMENT

A Durable and Sustainable New England Landscape

- Sustain and enhance the existing tree canopy
- Showcase sustainability through materials and strategies
- Prioritize ease of maintenance, inspiring stewardship

An Iconic Landmark at The Heart of Back Bay

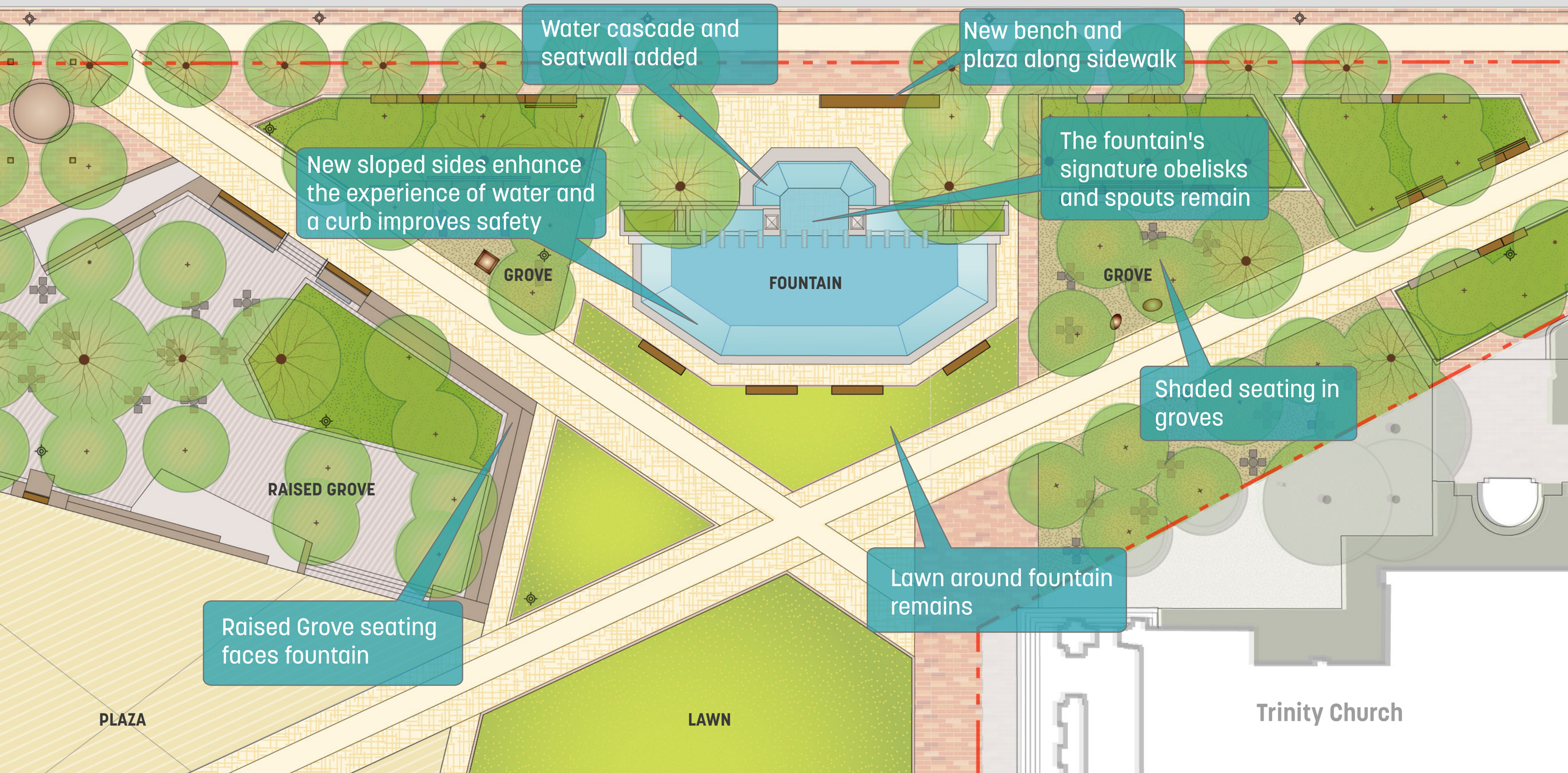
The Fountain & Park Materials

A Much Beloved Fountain, Revived for the 21st Century

The Fountain will be renovated to improve safety and enhance the experience with water. The key architectural features comprising of the obelisks, upper pools, and spouts will remain in place; while the lower pool on the Park and Boylston Street sides will be renovated with cascading water slopes and curbs.



Highlights of the Renovated Fountain



Classic Views of Copley's Fountain



The Fountain and Spouts, Seen Through the Grove

The fountain's iconic obelisks and twelve spouts shine in the mid-day sun, while the trees and seating in the adjacent grove provide comfortable shade.

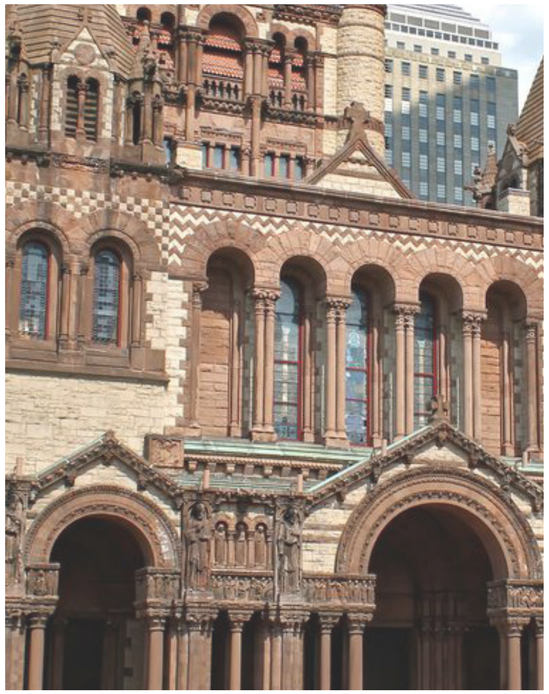


The Fountain and Trinity, Seen from Boylston St

The iconic view of the fountain, Trinity Church, and the 200 Clarendon Street building is maintained. The new water cascades add sparkle and interest to the fountain foreground.

Materials That Speak to Boston

Inspired by the surrounding context...













Proposed Materials



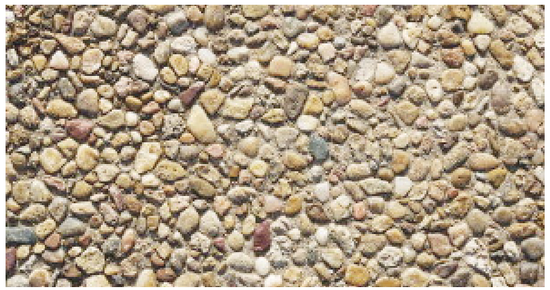
City Standard Wire Cut Brick



Milford Pink Granite for Fountain



Concrete Unit Pavers



Exposed Aggregate Concrete



New and Existing Lights



Warm-toned Concrete Paving

Materials that Speak to Boston




A Comfortably-Lit Park, Vibrant at Dusk
+EXISTING STREET LIGHTS
+FOUNTAIN ACCENT LIGHTS
+PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS

An Inclusive Bostonian Gathering Space

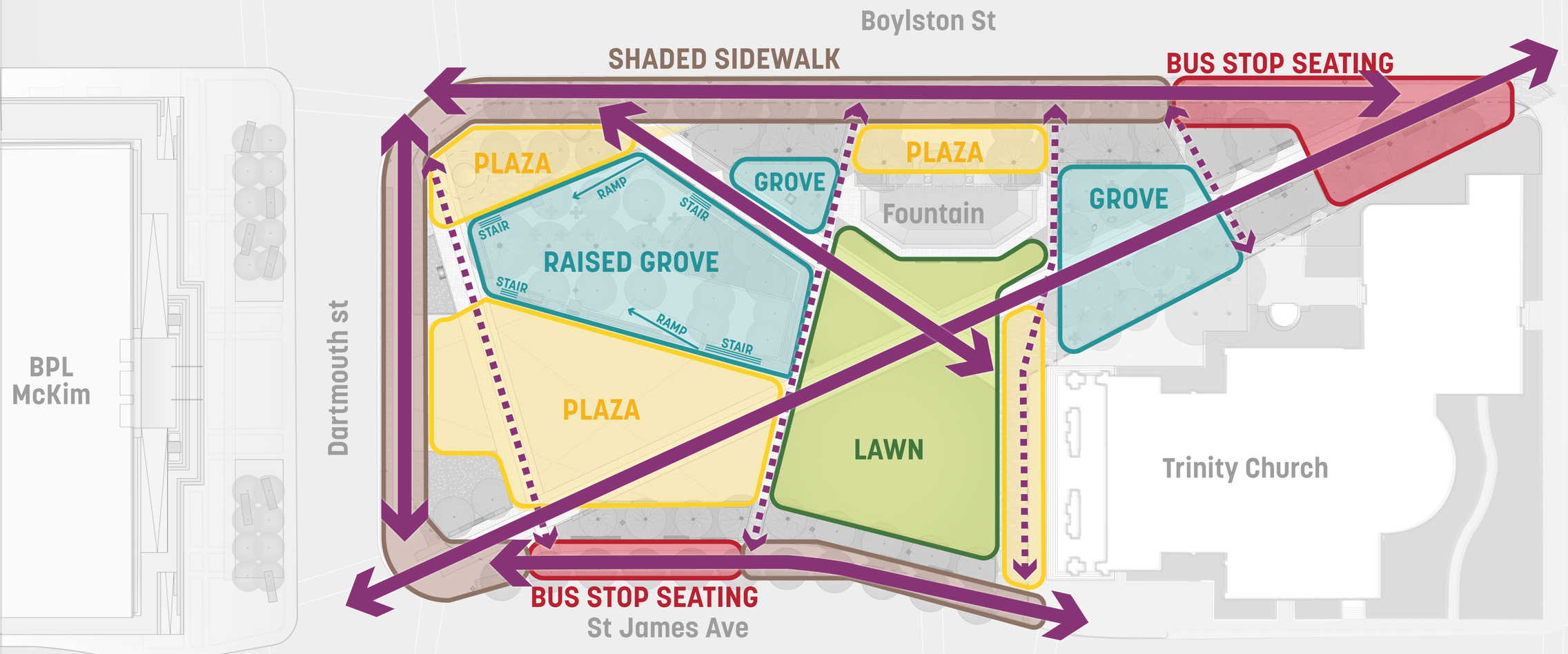
Seating, Circulation, and Spaces

A Place for All

The renovated square has a variety of spaces and seating types, so everyone can find a comfortable spot.

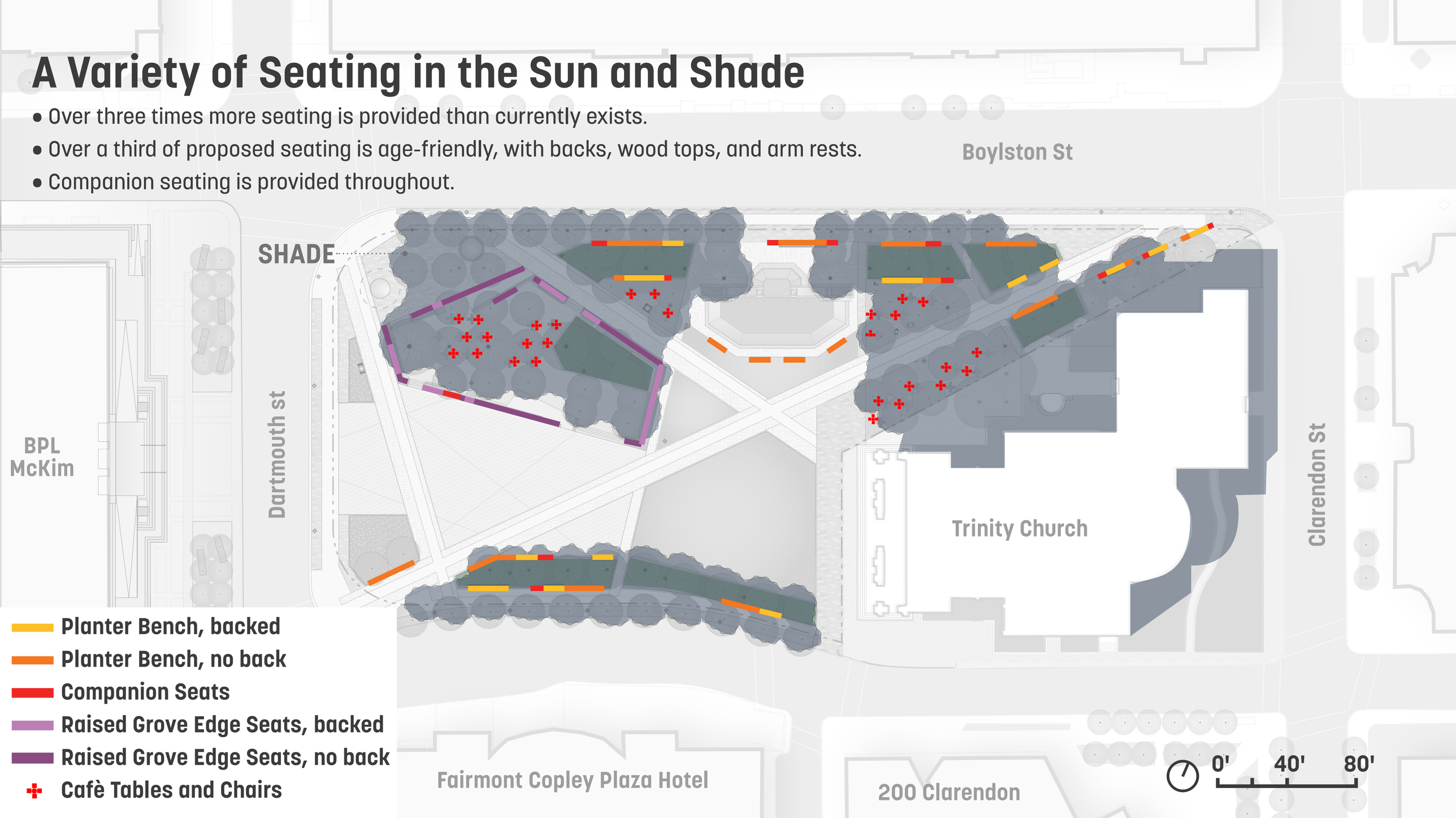


Intuitive Circulation and a Variety of Welcoming Spaces



A Variety of Seating in the Sun and Shade

- Over three times more seating is provided than currently exists.
- Over a third of proposed seating is age-friendly, with backs, wood tops, and arm rests.
- Companion seating is provided throughout.



A Variety of Seating Options for Every Body

Cafè Tables and Chairs



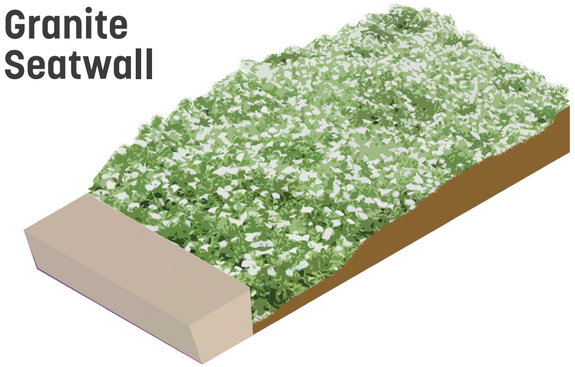


Traditional Park Benches

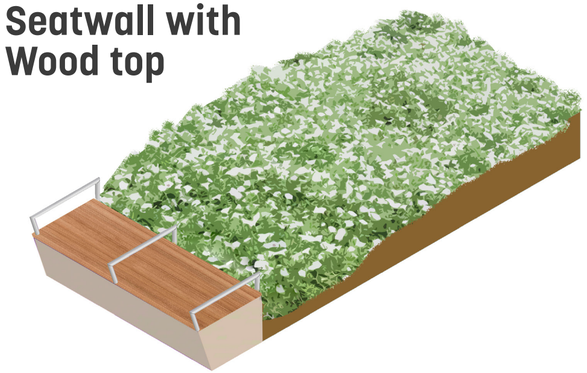


A Variety of Seatwalls

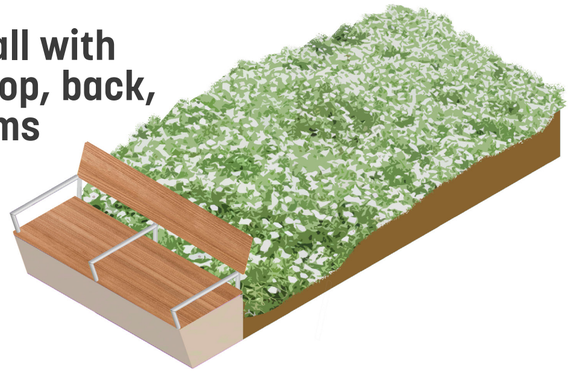
Granite Seatwall



Seatwall with Wood top



Seatwall with Wood top, back, and arms

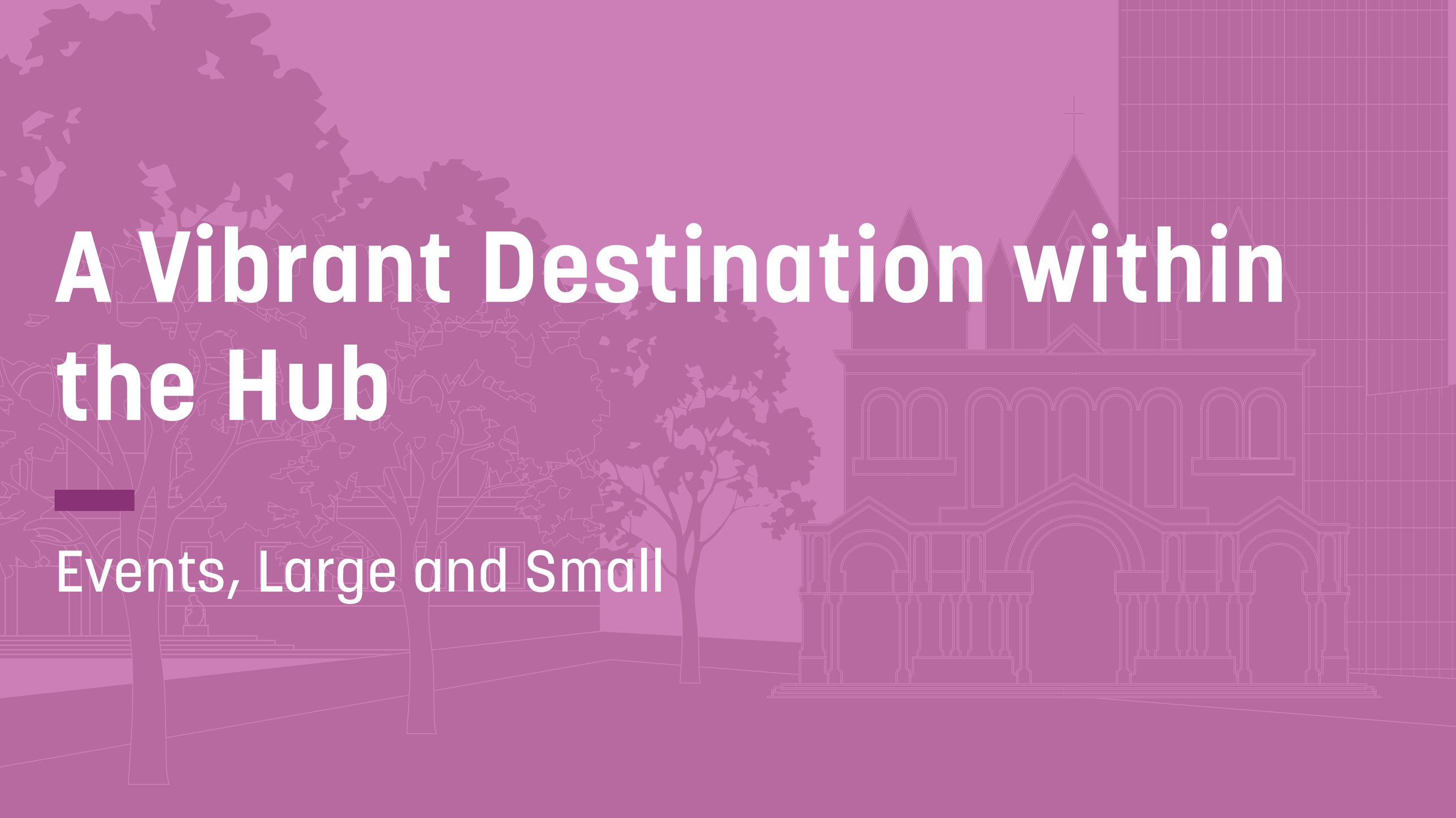


A Place for All, Everyday



A Vibrant Destination within the Hub

Events, Large and Small



Improvements for Daily and Weekly Events

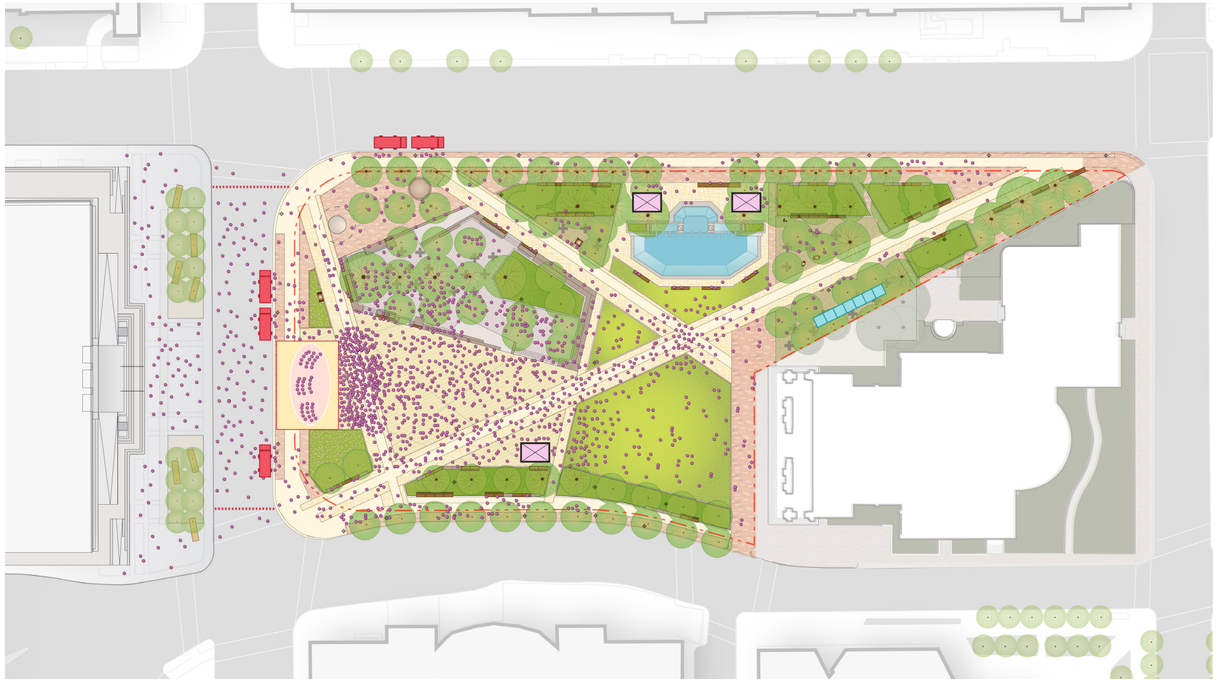
The renovated square has the built-in durability and infrastructure to host the daily, weekly, and annual events that people love.



Improvements for Cultural Events

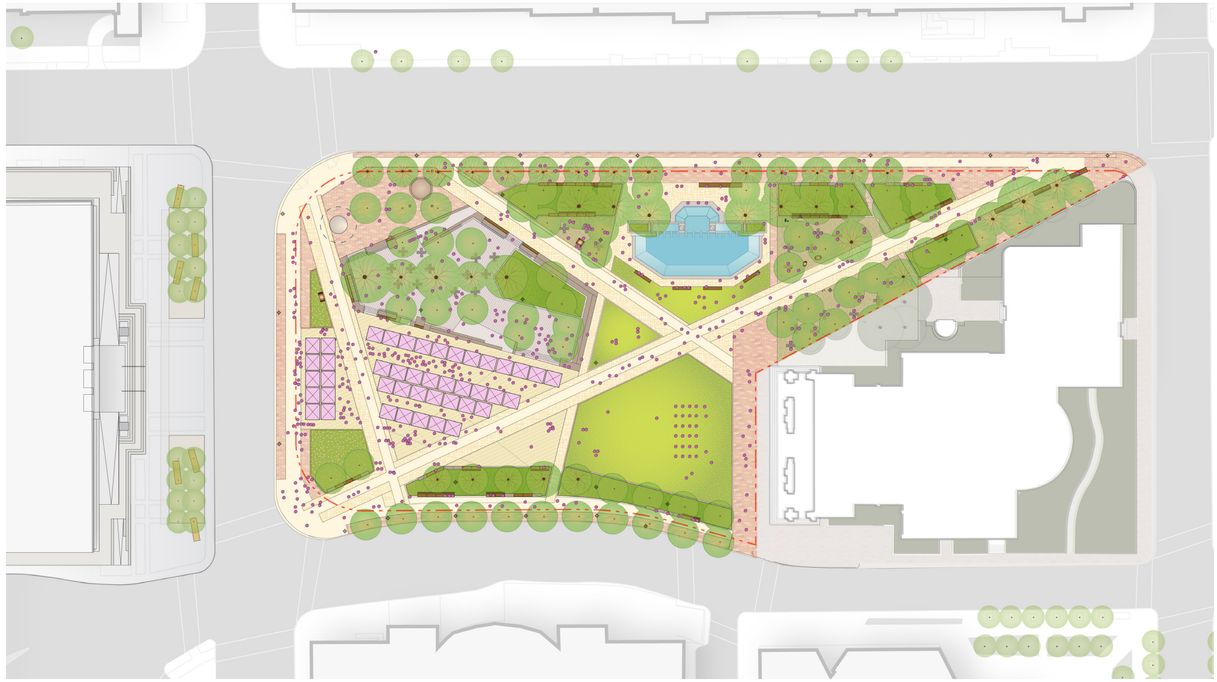


Improvements for Event Setup



Stage Set-up

The new Copley Square is designed to host stages up to 40' x 60', spaced far enough from Trinity Church to prevent damage to the building. Audiences can spread out on the plaza, raised grove, and lawn, and event spill out into Dartmouth St when the road is closed for events such as concerts, rallies, First Night, etc.



The Farmers' Market

The new plaza at Copley Square is designed to host the farmer's market with several improved features: ample power hook-ups for vendors, a plaza that can be driven on, and a consolidated central space for tents.

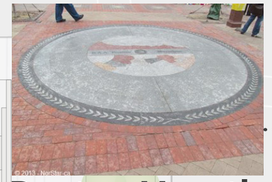
Public Art



John Singleton Copley Statue



Tortoise and Hare Sculpture



Boston Marathon Memorial



Kahlil Gibran Memorial

New Public Art Opportunity

Four prominent and beloved artworks in the city's public art collection have been relocated to appropriate sites within the plan and will be restored during construction.

A new public art opportunity for the square is underway in collaboration with the Boston Arts Commission and the One Boston Memorial Project.

A Durable and Sustainable New England Landscape

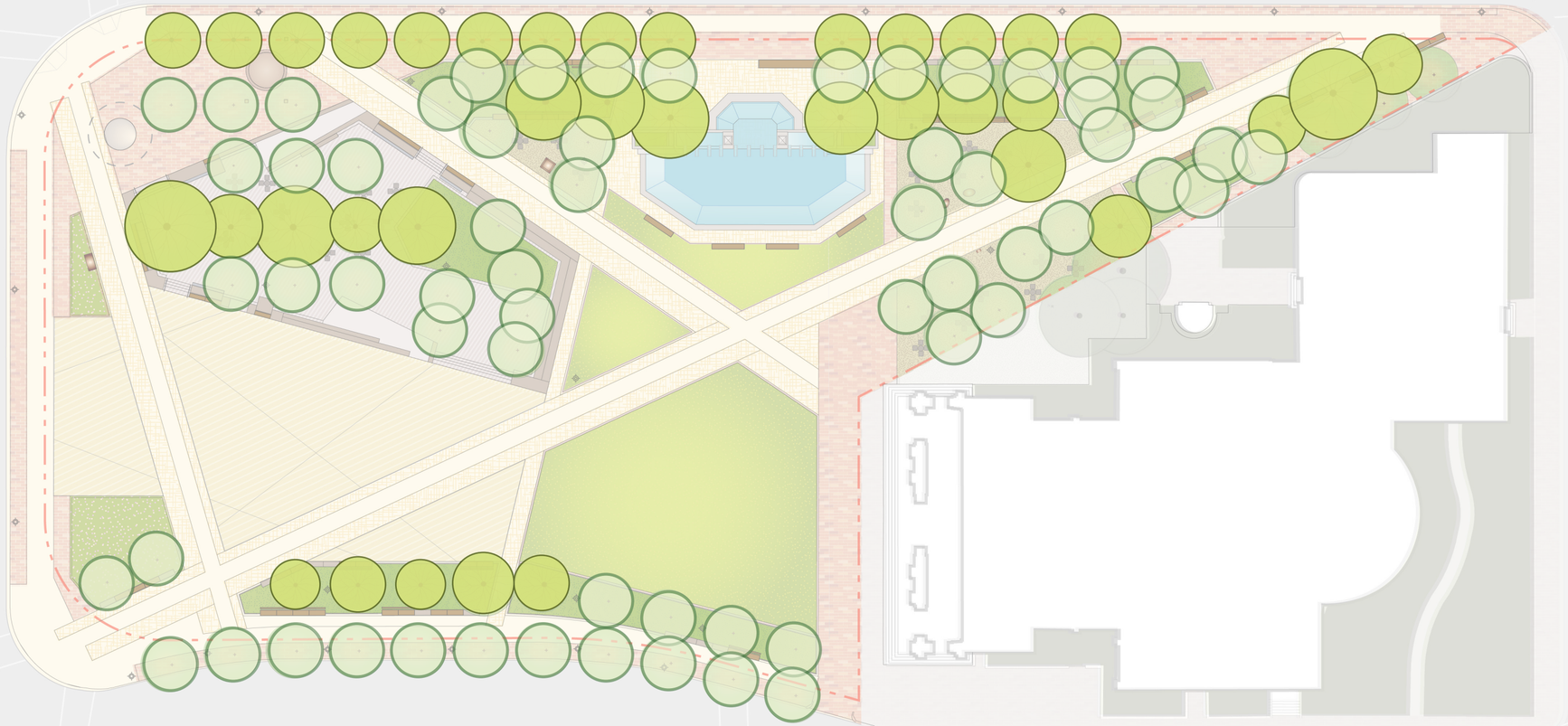
Tree Stewardship and Planting

Preserving Legacy Trees is a Top Priority



Preserving Copley's healthy, mature trees is important because they are one of the things people love most about the Square. Trees also cool the Square in the summer and provide shade.

Preserving Legacy Trees is a Top Priority



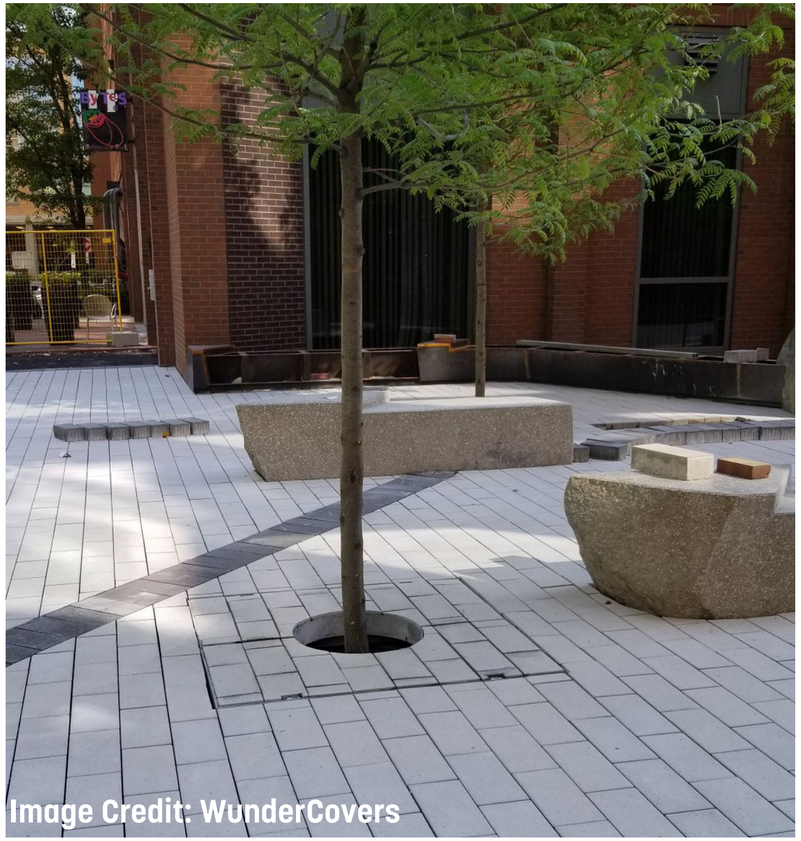
36 Preserved Trees

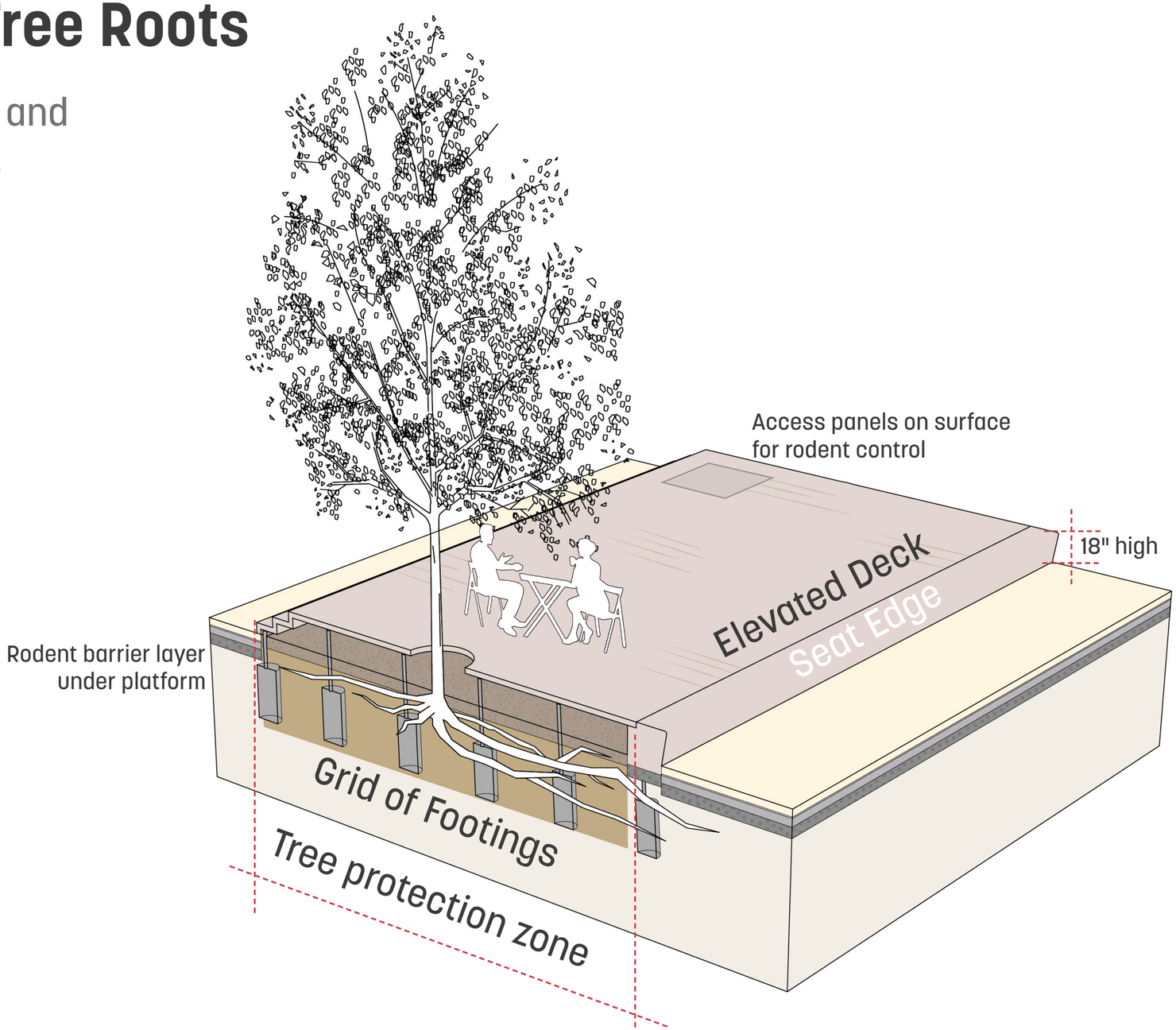
62 New Trees

98 Total Trees

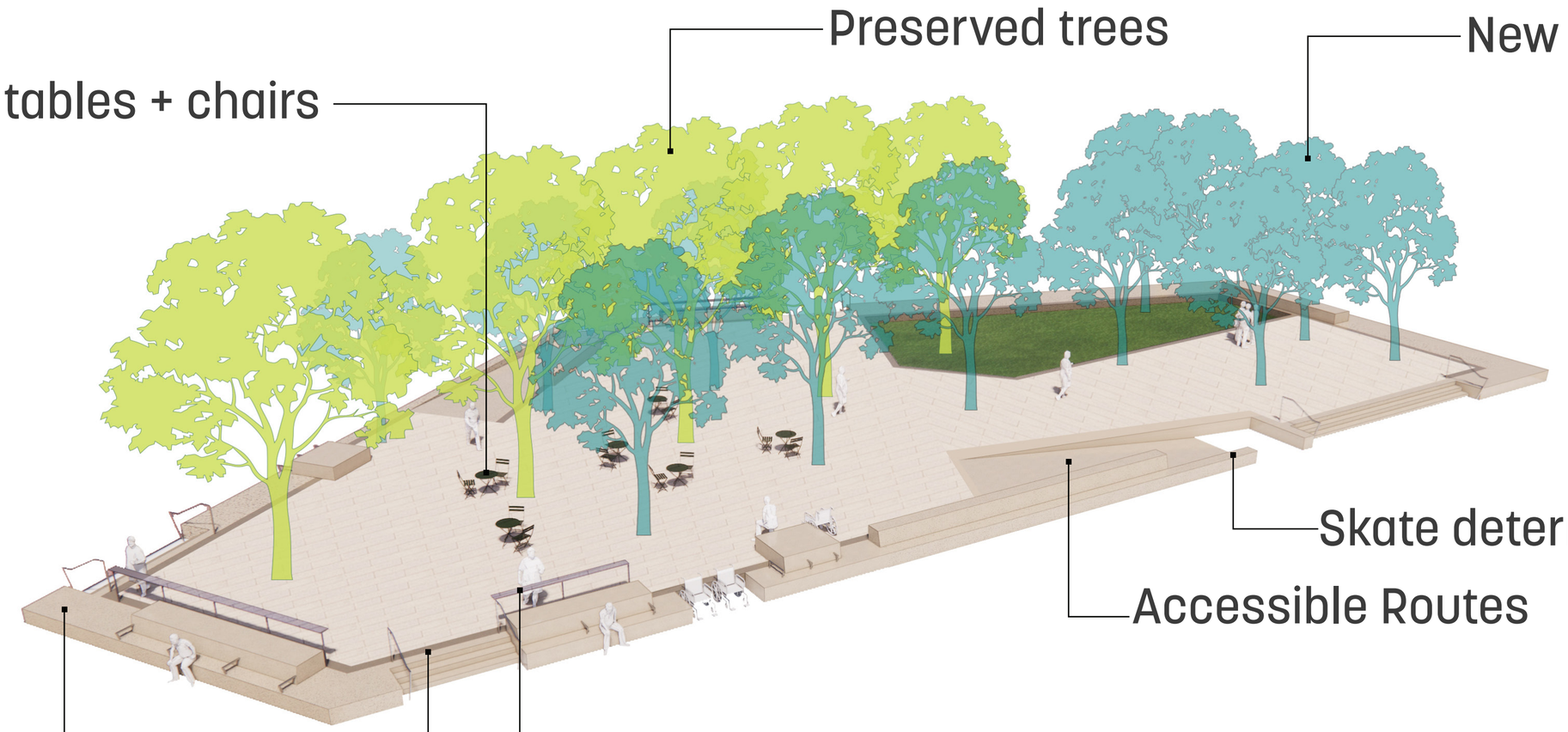
The Raised Grove Protects Tree Roots

Elevated pavers make a space for tree roots and allow people walk under the canopy without stressing the tree roots.


Image Credit: WunderCovers



The Raised Grove Creates Great Spaces for People



* Companion seats, throughout

**Integrated access panels on surface for rodent control

The Raised Grove: A Great Space for People and Trees



Planting Types

ANNUAL PLANTERS

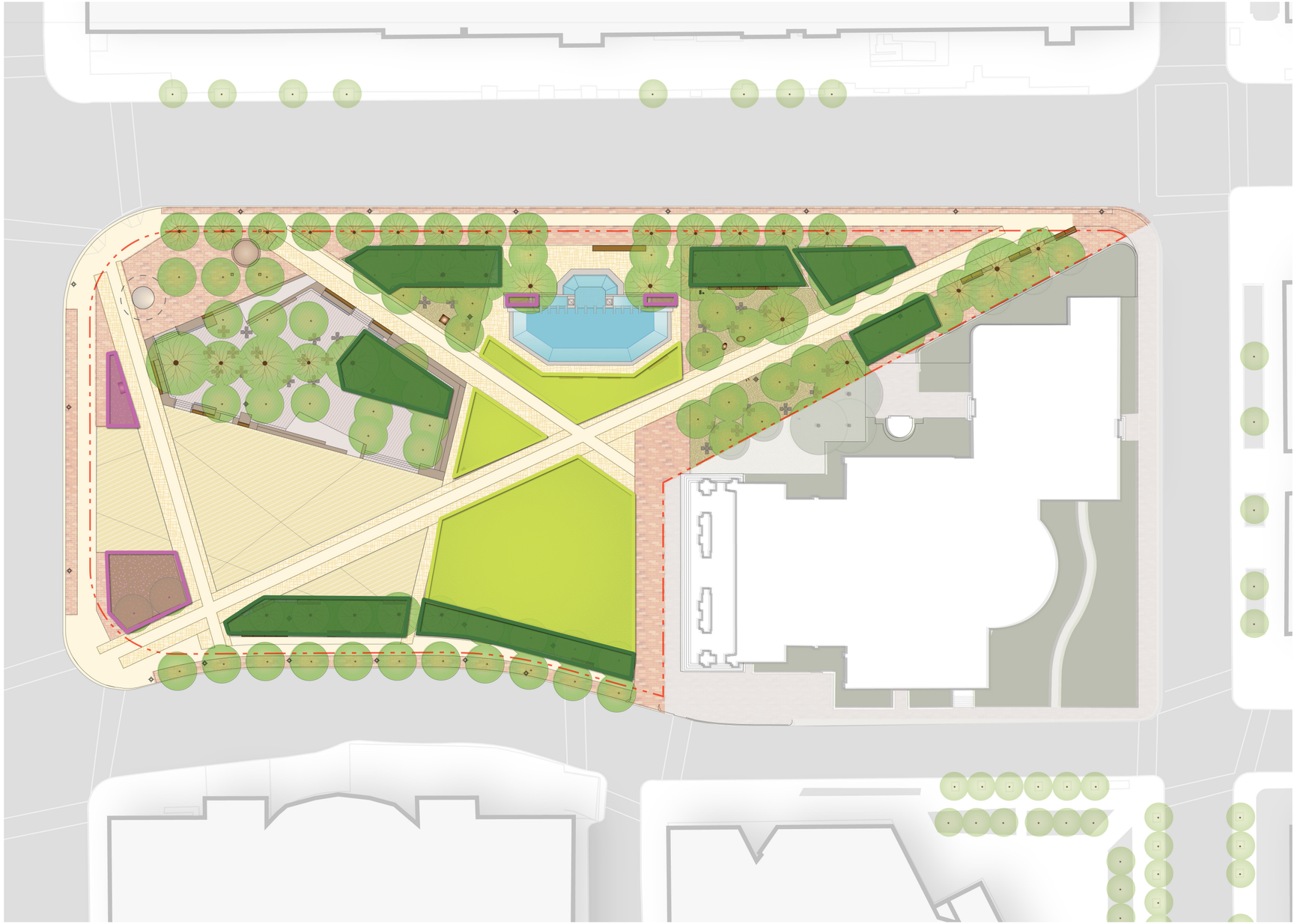


Perennials & Shrub Planters



Lawn





Perennial & Shrub Benefits

- Protect existing trees and support new tree planting
- Create gardens for seasonal enjoyment
- Food & habitat for birds
- Capture & infiltrate rainwater
- Combat urban heat island making the Square more comfortable in summer
- Year-round interest with flowers, evergreens, berries, leaves, and bark
- Frame the Square and buffer the Street



Sample Plant Species



"Copley will continue to be a space that unites us, that invigorates us, and that brings us joy."

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond
Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston

Ground Breaking in Spring 2023!

Copley Square Park Design Updates

Visit the project website for more information

bit.ly/copley-square